

DRAFT MINUTES FOR TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 7, 2003

Members present: Bernie Chenette, Alan Huizenga, Barbara Willis, Dave Cotton, Gail Center, Kimberly Kendall, Jeff Williams, Roger Thompson, Rodney Pingree, John Forcier, Kimberley Crosby

Members absent: Craig Heindel, Gary Fern, Spencer Harris, Gerry Kittle, Allison Lowry

Others attending: Frank O'Brien, Marilyn Davis

Next meetings:

Tuesday, January 21, 2003, from 1-4 PM @ Room 100 Stanley Hall
Tuesday, February 4, 2003, from 1-4 PM @ Room 100 Stanley Hall
Tuesday, February 18, 2003, from 1-4 PM @ Room 100 Stanley Hall
Wednesday, March 5, 2002, from 1-4 PM TBA
Tuesday, March 18, 2003 from 1-4 PM TBA
Tuesday, April 1, 2003 from 1-4 PM TBA

The minutes for the December 17 meeting were approved.

An item for updating the Committee on the results of the Education and Implementation Committee was added to the agenda.

The work on the hydro chart was deferred to next meeting because Allison had a family emergency and had not been able to work with the sub-committee on the chart.

Roger announced that consultant training on the chart and on the rules is proposed for January 31 and February 7. Public informational meetings on the UIC draft rules is set for January 28 and 30 and February 6.

Frank O'Brien reported on a new application for approval of an innovative system by Spec Industries called the AIRR system. The AIRR Wastewater Recovery System is a type of recirculating sand filter which does not comply with all of the standards for recirculating sand filters in the 2002 version of the Environmental Protection Rules. The Department will be sending a letter to Spec Industries within the next few days outlining what additional submittals we would require and explaining the type of approval we would be issuing once we are satisfied that they have met the requirements of the rules. It should be a fairly routine approval.

Aquapoint, Inc. has requested general use approval for the Bioclere system. The Bioclere system is a modified trickling filter with a clarifier and is intended to be installed as part of a sewage disposal system between the septic tank and leach field. This application was delivered on January 8, 2002 and review has not started.

The Infiltrator company has asked that the department consider revised loading rates for their chamber systems. This will take research into the effects of long term loading rates with septic tank effluent.

There may be some third party research that can help. David Cotton noted that the testing protocols for various third party testing may vary considerably. For example some testing allows a system to not comply with the effluent limits as much as 30% of the time. Some testing companies do not audit the field performance of systems, etc. The Committee suggested that we develop a checklist that would guide companies to submit the kind of data we need to make a decision.

There was a great deal of discussion about treatment systems for projects with a lot of down time such as vacation homes and schools. Physical filtering may go on for some, others have a biomat that ceases to function properly when flow is interrupted for a few days. Some members feel that there is no concern over treatment except for upsets that interrupt the biological activity. There was a suggestion that larger systems could be required to “seed” the system when interrupted flows resumed, so that treatment activity started very quickly. This is not reasonable for household systems.

Roger mentioned that the system was not the concern it was the groundwater. Many of the complicated treatment systems have poor quality effluent going out. Nitrogen and phosphorus removal are important, especially in other states. Some of those states are finding that there is not enough attention to the operation of these units and are considering not allowing them any more.

David mentioned that some manufacturers are requiring initial three year contracts. Most systems have not been through the warranty period, so we do not know whether the contracts will be renewed.

The Committee was briefed on the completion of the report by the Education and Implementation Committee to the legislature. It is nearly complete and will be sent out next week.

The Committee agreed that Marilyn Davis will draft a brief report as required by statute for the Committee to submit by January 15. Because implementation from passage of the bill to now is discussed in the E&I committee report on implementation The TAC Committee report will simply reference that report and have a brief history of the TAC Committee activities.